

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

AGRE-00 /106 W

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R 301237Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2224

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USDEL MTN GENEVA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 16537

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MTN, EAGR, EEC, GATT, GW

SUBJ: GATT MINISTERIAL MEETING AND MTN AGRICULTURAL  
IMPASSE

REF: (A) MTN 9422; (B) PARIS 28442

1. ACCORDING TO KUEHN, WHO DIRECTS TRADE POLICY OFFICE  
IN ECONOMICS MINISTRY, 113 COMMITTEE DISCUSSION OF  
GATT MINISTERIAL WAS PROMPTED BY A CALL FOR A SPRING  
MINISTERIAL IN A SPEECH BY STR DENT. KUEHN DOUBTED THAT  
THE COMMUNITY COULD REACH A SUFFICIENTLY UNIFIED  
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POSITION TO TAKE THE LEAD IN PUSHING FOR A MINISTERIAL,

AND INDICATED THAT THE INITIATIVE WOULD HAVE TO COME FROM US OR JAPAN. HE THOUGHT THAT A MINISTERIAL MEETING IN MARCH COULD PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN MOVING THE NEGOTIATIONS AHEAD, BY OFFERING AN OPPORTUNITY TO WORK OUT AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL A PACKAGE DEAL FOR RESOLVING THE AGRICULTURAL IMPASSE.

2. IN THE SHORTER RUN, KUEHN FORESEES A HEATING UP OF US/EC CONFLICT ON AGRICULTURE. DUE IN LARGE PART TO FRG/UK URGING, THE COMMISSION PLANS TO TAKE A RELATIVELY AGGRESSIVE STANCE AT NEXT SUBGROUP SESSION REVIEWING AGRICULTURAL QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS IN ATTACKING US RESTRICTIONS AS WELL AS THOSE OF OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. THE UK AND FRG EXPECT THE US TO RESPOND WITH EQUALLY STRONG ATTACKS ON THE COMMUNITY'S RESTRICTIONS. IN KUEHN'S VIEW, THIS EXCHANGE WILL BE SALUTARY IN FORCING THE EC TO TAKE A HARDER LOOK AT ITS OWN AGRICULTURAL POLICIES. (COMMENT: IN A SEPARATE DISCUSSION ON STATE OF THE MTNS, DR. FREITAG, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR EC TRADE POLICY IN MFA, EXPRESSED RATHER COMMONLY HELD VIEW IN BONN THAT THE COMMUNITY CAN ONLY MAKE PROGRESS BY GOING THROUGH CRISES. IT STRIKES US THAT THE FRG MAY BE INTENTIONALLY PROVOKING TENSION IN ORDER TO RESOLVE THE AGRICULTURAL IMPASSE. BY CONTINUING TO FOCUS ON ATTACKS ON SPECIFIC EC PRACTICES RATHER THAN CAP IN GENERAL, WE MAY BE ABLE TO INCREASE THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THIS RENEWED EXCHANGE WILL LEAD TO A SUCCESSFUL RESOLUTION OF THE IMPASSE.)

3. WHILE GENERALLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR REACHING AGREEMENT ON A TARIFF FORMULA, KUEHN WAS QUITE SKEPTICAL ABOUT LIKELIHOOD THAT AGREEMENT COULD BE NEGOTIATED AND ACCEPTED BY END OF 1976. IN HIS VIEW IT WOULD BE MUCH MORE REALISTIC TO AIM FOR FINAL APPROVAL OF FORMULA AT MARCH MINISTERIAL.  
HILLENBRAND

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